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preached against such nonsense, with great success; he gave any person leave to take the milk from his cows, provided they did not touch them, this had such an effect, that not the least vestige of this superstition, in a short time remained in the parish. I really think a series of such lectures would be very useful in most parishes, and attended with the same beneficial consequences. The late event at Bramley, near Leeds, and the execution of the impostor Mary Bateman, is a striking instance of credulity, but of too recent a date to require insertion here. However, those wild opinions are decreasing very fast, and there is every reason to believe that at the conclusion of the present century there will be "scarce a wreck behind."

C. Fergus.

S.M.S.

To the Proprietors of the Belfast Magazine.

WILL you venture to publish the following letter of just remonstrance, written to Thomas Paine, some years before his death, by a worthy friend of mine in England? For justness of sentiment and energy of expression, I can recommend it to the true friends of philanthropy.

"Dear Sir,

In retiring from the revolutionary scenes of Europe, you will not, I trust, retire from those labours which are now strongly agitating the human intellect, and making oppressors tremble. While enormity is the growth of every soil, and while crimes, sanctioned by law, are suffered to blur the fairest institutions of mankind, powers such as you possess can never want employment. Pregnant with the purest political wisdom, you contributed in no small degree to emancipate the people of America from the proud domination of Britain, and you are now called upon in the name of suffering humanity, to aim at rescuing one part of that very American people, from the abominable grasp of the other. With tyranny, in whatever garb he may appear, you have waged perpetual war; and surely there cannot be a tyranny more truly execrable, than

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that of the republican planter lording it over his toil worn, lacerated slaves. Turn your attention then, to the southern states of the American union, and there among a people who have fought, and who have bled in defence of their own liberty, you may delineate the dark, and melancholy features of Negro slavery. Who, that is not familiar with wrong, could behold one of these pigmy despots, in the midst of his rice or tobacco plantation, without reprobating the government that can authorize such a system? Who that is not inured to outrage, could witness the incessant toil, the frequent exercise of the twisted thong, the Osnaburgh frock stained with human blood, and the sable countenance marked with inutterable anguish, without detesting the wretch, who tremblingly alive with respect to his own rights, can yet become the cruel violator of the rights of others? Who that is not an habitual hypocrite, could follow the democratic slave holder to the legislature of his country, and hear him declaim on the rights of American citizens, on violated constitutions, &c. without the strongest sensations of loathing and disgust? Or in short, who, that has the feelings of a man, could behold this complicated villainy, without adopting your own indignant assertion, "that tyranny and martyrdom, like taxation and representation, ought to go hand in hand?" To ameliorate the situation of man is evidently the object of your writings; and whilst your favourite America can exhibit such atrocities, it is impossible, I again repeat it, that powers such as you possess can ever want employment. The man who is truly a philanthropist, will ever be consistent; he cannot possess one class of feelings for white men, and another for negroes: no! his arms embrace the universe and all mankind are his brethren. From the head of the Chesapeake to the borders of Florida, and from the shores of the Atlantic to the banks of the Mississippi is a widely extended region, in which you may have many admirers, who would no doubt take it in dudgeon, were you to appear inimical to their mis-called interests; yet notwithstanding

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ing this, I firmly believe that you will not inhabit a country, in which man is allowed to be the property of man, without becoming the enemy of the oppressor, and the fearless advocate of the oppressed. As the clear and energetic champion for broad and general liberty, you have not a superior in the annals of mankind, yet through the whole of your writings, I do not recollect a single passage that is particularly pointed against the slavery of the negroes.—It is a subject that calls for intellect, gigantic as your own: it is an Augean stable, fit only for such an Hercules. Let me entreat you then, in the name of that liberty which you prize above all price, once more, to vindicate the rights of injured nature, and to show, that no laws, no affluence, no authority, can shelter the proprietor of human sinews, from the scorn and contempt of a regenerating world. Against you there is not an epithet in the vocabulary of baseness which will not be employed; yet in advocating the cause of negro wretchedness, your powers must prove irresistible.”

In communicating a copy of this letter to me, my friend thus wrote in the year 1807.

“I congratulate you on the abolition of the slave trade, and have inclosed you a letter, which some time ago I addressed to Thomas Paine, on the subject of Negro slavery, in the United States. Since his receipt of this, he has frequently sent me his verbal respects, but will not commit himself to paper on the subject. In 1791. Thomas Paine conversing with a gentleman on the subject of the slave trade, wondered that God Almighty did not send a thunderbolt to blast the d——d town of Liverpool, yet Thomas Paine now resides in the State of New York, surrounded by Negro slaves without either writing, or uttering a syllable against Negro slavery, though he may daily read such advertisements, as the following; “For sale, a well looking Negro woman, about 23, with or without her child of four years old; apply to the proprietor” I wish politicians and philosophers would learn to be consistent. Jefferson, the pre-

sident of the United States, the freest country in the world, holds hundreds of his fellow creatures in a state of bondage. Horne Tooke, the celebrated English patriot, is an enemy to the abolition of the slave trade, and Cobbett, the redoubted Cobbett, has been the uniform advocate of Negro slavery!!!”

Such sentiments, do honour to the head and heart of the writer, and tend to communicate a spark to electrify and energize congenial minds.

K.

For the Belfast Monthly Magazine.

ON THE PAPER ENTITLED, SCOTCH
LAW AND POLITENESS.

THE paper inserted in the last number of the Belfast Magazine, entitled Scotch law and politeness, deserves notice for two or three particulars. In the first place the behaviour of the Scotch magistrates is doubtless reprehensible in the highest degree, and when so many of them concurred in the same line of conduct it may in some sort be esteemed a national disgrace. Want of politeness, is too mild a term for behaviour, in which a deficiency of common humanity and information, is so prominent, as in that of this “Scotch compaction of justices,” to use their own uncouth terms; particularly for that of the justice, or rather unjust ass, who kept the gentlemen exposed to the rain while he was breakfasting at his ease.

But on the other hand it is evident, the gentlemen themselves were to blame, in being too hasty, and over severe in the exaction of their rights, and were peculiarly imprudent in being so in a strange place, where it appears our country is not held in too much esteem.

Let them reflect how much trouble and vexation they would have saved themselves by sending, or going to the first man they engaged, to terminate their bargain with him, before they hired a second; their omitting to do so, and taking the method they adopted, though it was according to their right, yet it was a strictness of right bordering on the *summum jus*, which all know to be *summa injuria*.